(c) and (d) Incidents of violence including bomb IED blasts are reported from J&K, North Eastern States and Naxalite affected States. The steps taken by the Government in this regard include review of security arrangements from time to time; sharing of intelligence information with the State Governments; strengthening of State Police Forces through the Police Modernisation Scheme and issue of advisories to State Governments for strengthening security at important religious shrines, vital installations, places of national importance etc.

Co-ordination with States

1007, DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the co-ordination mechanism in vogue between the Centre and the States concerned while combating and containing terrorism, Naxalism and insurgency; and

(b) in this process whose responsibility is paramount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Maintenance of law and public order is basically the responsibility of the State Governments. However, keeping in view the threats to internal security posed by extremist groups, the Central Government has set up suitable mechanisms to monitor the situation and coordinate measures to counter the challenge. In this regard, the Central Government also supplements the efforts of the State Governments. The Central assistance includes intelligence sharing, deployment of CPMFs and modernization of the State Police Forces.

Talks with Naxal Groups

1008. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government's dialogues with **the** Naxalites had failed and Naxals utilized this opportunity to regroup and regain their strength;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the areas of operation of Naxal groups has grown rapidly over the past couple of years and this has been due to lack of co-ordination among the States and Centre;

(c) the details of (a) and (b); and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to deal with Naxal menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The peace talks between Andhra Pradesh Government and Naxalite outfits broke after the first round of talks, held at Hyderabad from October 15 to 18, 2004. Despite Naxalite outfits having announced unilateral withdrawal from the peace talks on 17.1.2005, the State Government has expressed its commitment to continue talks while taking necessary steps to maintain law and order in the State.

There are reports to indicate that Naxalite outfits consolidated their position in Andhra Pradesh during the peace talks period;. The Naxalite outfits are trying to spread their activity/influence in some parts of States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttaranchal.

(d) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of Naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with Naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, (c) long term deployment of Para-Military forces for intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (d) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (e) removal of socio-cultural alienation of people gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Nepalese gurkhas in the Country

1009. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of Nepalese gurkhas in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that with fewer jobs left in the army, many Nepalese gurkhas are taking up arms for the Maoists; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government does not have data